(c) The Ibex is placed in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act and therefore any trade of the species or articles derived therefrom is totally banned under the act.

The export of animal or its part or products is also banned under the export-import policy. The question of the export of the wool of this species therefore does not arise.

(d) The measures taken to protect this species and increase its production include :

(i) Hunting of the animal has been banned by law. It is placed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, giving the species maximum legal protection.

(ii) Central Assistance is provided to the concerned State Governments for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.

(iii) A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set-up which, inter-alia aims at protection and conservation of this species including its habitat. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national Parks and sanctuaries, on request from the State Governments.

(iv) Special study has been initiated to understand the ecology and gentics of the species which will help in evolving scientific management practices and increase in its population.

(v) Raids are carried out by the Wild'ife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals are received.

(vi) Cooperation of Police, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Army is also taken in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders in difficult areas of the Himalayas.

(vii) A scheme of rewards to informers is being implemented which, inter alia helps in developing intelligence network.

Cheating the farmers at wheat procurement centres

689. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently received any complaints about cheating the farmers at various wheat procurement centres; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Most of the complaints received in the Control Room set up in the Ministry of Food, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi and in FCI Head Quarters, New Delhi, to monitor implementation of the price support scheme for Rabi foodgrains, related to the alleged sale of foodgrains, related to the alleged sale of foodgrains including wheat below the minimum support price. In one case only, a press report dated 13-4-93 appeared in Navbharat Times reported cheating of farmers at procurement centres of wheat in Uttar Pradesh. The matter was taken up with the Government of U.P. who have intimated that the allegation has been found to be baseless.

Production of Chillies

690. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total production of cnillies during the last five years;